

Translating military training into college credits

Adrienne Lu, Pew/Stateline Staff Writer 10:23 a.m. EDT September 27, 2013



(Photo: Brent Drinkut, AP)

Many states want college students who served in Iraq and Afghanistan to get academic credit for their military training and experience. The challenge is figuring out how many credits that training and experience is worth.

At least 26 states have passed legislation directing their boards of education to develop statewide policies to provide academic credit to the largest influx of veterans since the end of World War II, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. The Education Commission of the States, a Denver-based nonprofit organization, says 19 states have enacted related legislation in the last two years alone.

"There's a lot of interest in a lot of different circles [in helping] veterans," said Cathy Sandeen of the American Council on Education (ACE), which represents the presidents of U.S. colleges and universities.

More than 2,300 schools rely on ACE to review various types of military training and experience and recommend how to translate them into academic credits. But as is the case with AP exams or transfers from another school, each school makes the final decision on how much credit, if any, to award.

"The problem is it's just a recommendation, and schools can choose whether or not to accept it," said Michael Dakduk, who heads the Student Veterans of America, a coalition of student veterans groups on college campuses. Dakduk served as a Marine in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

A DIFFICULT TRANSITION

Veterans on college campuses face obstacles their fellow students do not. Many are coping with physical or mental injuries that make studying a struggle. Others flounder without the structure and camaraderie of the military, or have trouble relating to 18-year-olds more interested in partying than schoolwork. Some veterans have to balance their academic responsibilities with families, jobs, or additional deployments.

Some colleges have tried to ease veterans into campus life by hiring counselors trained in the military culture, or by creating centers where veterans can share stories or hold study groups. A 2011 report by the American Council on Education lauded the effectiveness of those services.

Such steps have become increasingly vital since the 2008 passage of the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, which provides education aid to the 2 million service members who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Under the law, veterans get up to 36 months of education benefits, payable for 15 years following their release from active duty. In addition to tuition aid, benefits include a monthly living allowance and a book stipend of \$1,000 per year.

Since the law took effect in 2009, close to 1 million service members have received more than \$25 billion in aid, which can be used to attend any public or private school.

"The one word speech I usually give is graduate, graduate, graduate," Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki told a gathering of student veterans earlier this year. "If I sound like your dad, I am. I'm paying most of your bills."

WHAT IS MILITARY SERVICE WORTH?

As veterans have flooded the nation's campuses, efforts to translate military training and experience into academic credit have taken on new urgency. But the challenges for colleges and universities are considerable. Schools often struggle to determine exactly what was covered in a military training course, or whether the instructor would pass academic muster. Sometimes military training doesn't correspond to any course a school offers.

Some decisions are easy: A former medic probably received training relevant to a nursing degree, and a student pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering probably deserves credit if she served in the military as an aircraft technician. But what if she worked as a public relations officer?

Clackamas Community College in Oregon has tried to tackle the problem by creating 21 "bridge" courses to fill in the gaps that may have been left by military instruction. Veterans can combine the courses with their military experience to earn credits in areas as varied as law enforcement, business administration and English.

Seven states in the Midwest — Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota and Missouri — have formed the Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit to study the issue and share best practices.

Ken Sauer of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education said the collaborative is trying to figure out what kinds of student data that institutions and states should collect to track veterans' academic success. Meanwhile, some schools in the participating states are plowing ahead.

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In Illinois, Community colleges have designed a new course for basic medical corpsmen to become licensed practical nurses. And in Indiana, veterans who served in the military police or in military prisons can receive credit toward an associate's degree in criminal justice at Ivy Tech Community College.

Minnesota has created a web site to help veterans determine the credits they might qualify for in state colleges and universities, based on their branch of service, occupation, training dates and rank. For example, a combat engineer in the Army at the rank of E6 might be eligible for credits in business administration, finance management, management and marketing at North Hennepin Community College.

"These examples benefit all parties," Sauer recently told a congressional committee. "They save money for both the veteran and the taxpayer, they help ease the transition from military to civilian life—which can be especially difficult for veterans who have seen combat—and they also contribute toward a better educated workforce."

Dakduk argues that colleges and universities that manage to find ways to award academic credit to veterans will end up reaping the benefits.

"By providing academic credit for military experience schools can attract more veterans to their campus which ultimately adds diversity to, and enriches, the student community," he said.

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USA NOW



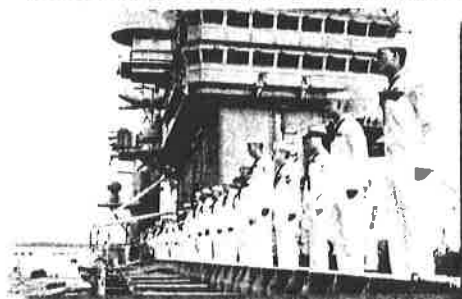
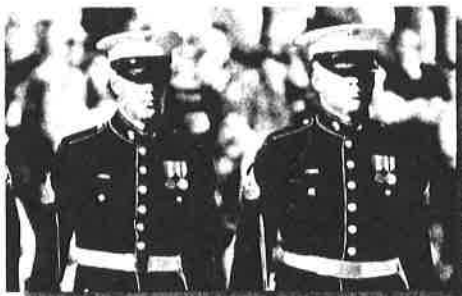
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Feb 13, 2015



Leadership and Advocacy

Joint Services Transcript



Website: <https://jst.doded.mil>
Email: jst@doded.mil

Background

The Joint Services Transcript (JST) provides documented evidence to colleges and universities of the professional military education, training, and occupation experiences of service members and veterans. Under contract with the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES), the American Council on Education (ACE) conducts and facilitates the rigorous academic review of military courses and occupations. JST is an official transcript tool that validates and documents those courses and occupations for service members and veterans.

Stakeholders can create JST accounts and receive transcripts at <https://jst.doded.mil>.

Questions that are service specific can be directed to the individual service support areas found on the back page of this pamphlet or at <https://jst.doded.mil>. Questions concerning technical support can be directed to jst@doded.mil.

The Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Coast Guard now have a synchronized transcript presenting:

- Personal service member data;
- Military course completions with descriptions;
- Military experience;
- College-level test scores;
- Other learning experiences;
- A summary page, with Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) Course Category Codes; and
- An academic institution courses page (Army excluded).

Benefits of JST:

- Increased return on investment;
- Uniformity and centralization; and
- Alignment of service-specific information.

Supporting Service Members and Veterans by:

- Eliminating the need for DD Form 295 (Application for the Evaluation of Learning Experiences During Military Service);
- Streamlining procedures for corrections and updates;
- Providing online access to request official copies;
- Making unofficial copies available at any time; and
- Offering timely updates or corrections with service-specific support.

Supporting Colleges and Universities by:

- Eliminating the need for DD Form 295;
- Providing free transcripts online, with a delivery turnaround of 24 hours;
- Providing technical assistance for online accounts;
 - Multiple accounts available per institution
 - Secure PDF format
- Creating feedback opportunities for transcript improvements; and
- Reporting errors via email.

Section 1: Unique Service Seal

- Each JST is "owned" by the service member's or veteran's specific service. The Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Coast Guard participate in the JST; therefore, you will see each service's seal with the ACE seal at the top.

JOINT SERVICES TRANSCRIPT



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JOINT SERVICES TRANSCRIPT



Section 2: Personal Service Member Data

- This section will clearly indicate whether the transcript is official or unofficial. Service members and veterans can access unofficial copies of their transcripts at any time via the web. Official transcripts can be requested via the website and must come directly from the JST Operations Center.
- The title of the rank with the actual pay-grade level is provided in parentheses.
- The member's current status (active or separated) is important for colleges

JOINT SERVICES TRANSCRIPT



****OFFICIAL****

Name: MARINE 1 AM
SSN: XXX-XX-XXXX
Rank: Corporal (E4)
Status: Separated

Transcript Sent To:
University of XXXXXXXX

JOINT SERVICES TRANSCRIPT



****OFFICIAL****

Name: ARMY 1 AM
SSN: XXX-XX-XXXX
Rank: Sergeant First Class (E7)
Status: Active

Transcript Sent To:
University of XXXXXXXX

JOINT SERVICES TRANSCRIPT



****UNOFFICIAL****

Name: [REDACTED]
SSN: XXX-XX-XXXX
Rank: Senior Chief Information Systems Technician (E8)
Status: Separated

Transcript Sent To:
[REDACTED]

and universities, particularly if a member is still active, which could mean he or she may have additional transcripts to provide with the career progression.

Section 3: Military Course Completions

- This section lists the trajectory of courses the service member or veteran has completed that have been evaluated by ACE. Key things to note include the military course ID number in the far left margin, the ACE identifier in bold text to the right, and the dates taken.
- The credit recommendations are listed as subject area bullets with the semester hours (SH) and level of the credit (V=vocational; L=lower; U=upper; G=graduate) aligned to the right.
- At the end of the credit recommendation, there are two sets of dates. The first date indicates when an ACE faculty evaluation team conducted the hands-on review. The second date indicates any administrative adjustment to the course data.
- Not everything appears on the transcripts, and it is recommended that you cross-reference the transcript with the ACE Military Guide (www.acenet.edu/militaryguide). Additional data listed in the guide include course length, version, and related competencies (topics associated with each subject area credit recommendation).

Military Course Completions				
Military Course ID	ACE Identifier Course Title Location-Description-Credit Areas	Dates Taken	ACE Credit Recommendation	Level
750-BT	AR-2201-0399 Basic Combat Training: Upon completion of the course, the recruit will be able to demonstrate general knowledge of military organization and culture, mastery of individual and group combat skills including marksmanship and first aid, achievement of minimal physical conditioning standards, and application of basic safety and living skills in an outdoor environment.	12-JUN-1988 to 14-AUG-1988		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid • Marksmanship • Outdoor Skills Practicum • Personal Physical Conditioning (10.00)(10.00)		1 SH	L
5-16-C20	AR-1408-0286 Initial Military Training for Chaplains and Chaplain Candidates: Chaplain Center and School Ft. Jackson, SC Upon completion of the course, the student will have been exposed to general military topics	20-AUG-1996 to 10-SEP-1996		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military Science (3.04)(3.04)		1 SH	L

Section 4: Military Experience (Occupations)

- This section highlights occupation designators, their descriptions, credit recommendations, and when they were attained by the service member. Not all occupations have been evaluated by ACE.
- Enhancements include the Army occupation status (primary, duty, secondary) next to the occupation designator.
- For Marine Corps occupations, the pay-grade alignment to the credit recommendation is noted in parentheses.

Occupation ID	ACE Identifier Title Description/Credit Areas	Dates Held	ACE Credit Recommendation	Level
MCE-9900	NONE ASSIGNED Basic Marine: Description not available • None	01-APR-2001		
MCE-1100	NONE ASSIGNED Basic Utilities Marine: Participates in formal schooling to qualify for one of the designated MOSs within the utilities occupational field. • None	01-AUG-2001		
1161	MCE-1161-001 Refrigeration Mechanic: Installs, operates, and performs preventive maintenance on air conditioner and refrigeration equipment electrical systems, including replacement of mechanical and electrical components and air circulating system; repairs air conditioner and refrigeration tubing; supervises refrigeration and air conditioning equipment installation, preventive and corrective maintenance, corrosion and deterioration control, and hazardous waste control program. • A/C Refrigeration Troubleshooting and Repair (SSGT) • Leadership (SSG E) • Principles of Management (SSGT)	01-OCT-2001	3 SH 1 SH 2 SH	L L U
(6 00) (6 00)				

Section 5: College Level Test Scores

- This is a useful advising section on the exams, such as the CLEP, DSST, or DLPT, that a service member or veteran has completed.
- Often, colleges and universities still require the official test score report, but this section can be used as an advising tool.

College Level Test Scores

Excelsior College Examinations (ECE) formerly ACT PEP Regents College Examinations						
Date Taken	Title	Recomd Credit	Level	Required by ACE	Student's Score	
09-11-2011	World Conflict	3	U	C	A	
College Level Examination Program (CLEP) & DANES Subject Standardized Tests (DSST)						
Date Taken	Title	Recomd Hrs	Required by ACE	Student's Score	Sub Score1	Sub Score2 Verbal Score
09-11-2011	College Level Spanish Language	6-12	80	62		
09-11-2011	Technical Writing	4	86	55		
Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT)						
Date Taken	Title	Student Score	ACE Recommended Credit			
01-24-2010	Spanish	2	Listening	Reading	Speaking	
01-24-2010	Spanish	3	11 & 61			
18-24-2010	Spanish	4	11 & 71			

Section 6: Other Learning Experiences

- The professional education and training experiences that do not have official ACE credit recommendations are listed within this section.
- This information is listed in tabular form, and the major reason codes for no credit recommendation are itemized for easier reference.

Other Learning Experiences

This section provides a record of the service member's learning experiences that do not have credit recommended for one or more of the following reasons:

(1) Course(s) not been evaluated by ACE.

(2) Class attendance/duties were not recorded in the service member's record.

(3) Course was not completed during the ACE evaluation period.

(4) Course was not evaluated by ACE at this specific location.

Course ID	Date Taken	Title	Location	Reason
M92 M022010105	29 APR 1994	Marine Combat Training	Marine Corps Institute - SC	F
874 M000001006	01 JUL 1996	NBC Individual Survival Measures	Marine Corps Institute Washington, DC	F
8005	28 JAN 1997	Leadership	Marine Corps Institute Washington, DC	F
8003	04 FEB 1997	Military Studies	Marine Corps Institute Washington, DC	F
8004	01 FEB 1997	Written Communication	Marine Corps Institute Washington, DC	F
8006	01 FEB 1997	Weapons	Marine Corps Institute Washington, DC	F
8005	01 FEB 1997	Hand Skills	Marine Corps Institute Washington, DC	F
13W	01 MAR 1997	Sea Scout Rescued Program	Marine Corps Institute Washington, DC	F
8007	01 MAR 1997	Training Management	Marine Corps Institute Washington, DC	F

Section 7: Summary

- This section is not considered an official part of the transcript. Notice that there is no ACE seal at the top of the page.
- This is a handy reference summary of the service member's or veteran's credit recommendations, which cross-references with the appropriate Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) Course Category Codes.
- Only items that have been evaluated by ACE that have recommended credit will appear on the Summary.



SUMMARY

Name: BEALL, YOU CAN BE		SSN: XXX-XX-XXXX				
ACF Exhibit Number	Military Course Number	Title / Subject	Date	Credit	Level	SOC Category Code
AR-2201-0399	750-1BT	Basic Combat Training	14-AUG-1988			
		First Aid		1	L	Health/Fit/Wellness
		Marksmanship		1	L	CJ297A
		Outdoor Skills Practicum		1	L	Physical Education
		Personal Physical Conditioning		1	L	Physical Education
AR-1408-0286	5-16-C20	Chaplain Officer Basic Common Core	10-SEP-1996	1	L	Military Science
AR-1513-0016	561-56M10	Chaplain Assistant	30-APR-1999			
		Computer Application		1	L	OP006A
		Word Processing		1	L	OP006A
		Ethics		1	U	OP011A/PL-81B
		Crisis Counseling		1	U	Counseling Psych
AR-1408-0285	561-56M30 (Option 1)	Religion	20-SEP-2002	1	U	Religious Studies
		Total Army Training System (TATS)				
		Chaplain Assistant Basic Noncommissioned Officer (NCO)				
		Office Procedures		1	L	OP011A
		Organizational Psychology		1	U	PS305A/PS305B
AR-1408-0313	805D-56M30.0 TATS	Chaplain Assistant Basic Noncommissioned Officer	29-OCT-2003			
		Operations Management		3	U	MG107A/MG107B
AR-1408-0287	500-75H40	Senior Personnel Services Sergeant	29-NOV-2003			
		Military Science		3	L	Military Science
		Principles Of Supervision		3	L	MG102A/MG102B
AR-1405-0201	921-410	Unit Movement Officer (UMOC)	21-SEP-2012			
		Logistics Management		3	U	

Section 8: Academic Institution Courses

- This section is not considered an official part of the transcript; notice that there is no ACE seal at the top of the page.
- Another valuable advising tool is the top portion, which indicates the degrees and certifications that the service member or veteran has completed.
- This section also itemizes the courses completed with military tuition assistance, or courses for which the service member or veteran has submitted official transcripts to their service to be included in his or her personal training record.
- This page is not available to the Army JST; Soldiers should refer to GoArmyEd (www.goarmyed.com) for information regarding their academic institution courses.



ACADEMIC INSTITUTION COURSES

**NOT AN OFFICIAL
TRANSCRIPT***

Name: [REDACTED] SSN: XXX-XX-XXXX

DEGREES / CERTIFICATIONS		Date Awarded	Institution
Type	Major / Certification		
BS	CHEMISTRY	18 MAY 2003	Evangel College
CERT	LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT	30 AUG 2005	Univ of Maryland Univ College Dist
CERT	HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT	30 DEC 2005	Univ of Maryland Univ College Dist

Course	Title	Start Date	End Date	Credits/ Unit	Level	Grade	Institution
MAT 2311	Calculus I	05 JAN 1989	26 APR 1989	3S	I	B	Florida A&M University 100 Lee Hall S.W. Blvd Tallahassee, FL 32307
PH 12106	Physics I	05 JAN 1989	26 APR 1989	3S	I	A	Florida A&M University 100 Lee Hall S.W. Blvd Tallahassee, FL 32307
MAT 2021	Physics II	05 JAN 1989	05 MAY 1989	3S	I	B	Florida State College at Jacksonville 501 W State St Jacksonville, FL 32202
ASH1210	US History I	05 JAN 1989	22 FEB 1989	3S	I	A	Florida State College at Jacksonville 501 W State St Jacksonville, FL 32202
ASH1220	US History II	07 MAR 1989	07 MAY 1989	3S	I	A	Florida State College at Jacksonville 501 W State St Jacksonville, FL 32202

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American Council on Education

One Dupont Circle, NW • Washington, DC 20036

www.acenet.edu



Web Resources

ACE Transcript Website

www.acenet.edu/militaryprograms/jst

DANTES Transcript Support

www.jointservicetranscript.com

Joint Services Transcript

jst.doded.mil

Email Support

JST Operations

jst@doded.mil

Army JST

usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-jst@mail.mil

Marine JST

jst@doded.mil

Navy JST

vec@navy.mil

Coast Guard JST

CGI-PF-ed_transcripts@uscg.mil

email: militaryed@acenet.edu

ACE Lifelong Learning Resource Center: 866-205-6267 (toll free)

DANTES #2128

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
OCTOBER 15 - 16, 2014**

Resolution No. 12: Support Joint Services Transcript Evaluation of Military Training and Experience of Veterans, Active-Duty, Reserve and National Guard Personnel
Origin: Register Resolution No. 2704 (MI) Department Executive Committee
Submitted by: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

WHEREAS, Veterans are in need of academic post-military degree and certificate credentials universally recognizable by employers for employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense (DOD) has already spared no expense to provide our military personnel with some of the best vocational training in the nation paid for by past federal budgets of the United States; and

WHEREAS, DOD establishes, measures and evaluates performance standards for every occupation within the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, The American Council on Education (ACE) has evaluated most of the training for these military occupations and provided guidelines for awarding college-level credit for such training; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 1,900 institutions of higher learning formed the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC), which was created in 1972 to provide educational opportunities to servicemembers who, because they frequently moved from place to place, had trouble completing college degrees; and

WHEREAS, SOC functions in cooperation with 15 higher education associations, DOD, and the Active and Reserve Components of the Military Services to expand and improve voluntary post-secondary education opportunities for servicemembers worldwide; and

WHEREAS, SOC is funded by the DOD through a contract with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and the contract is managed for DOD by the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES); and

WHEREAS, There are many occupational career fields in the Armed Forces that have been evaluated by ACE using the Joint Services Transcript System into recommended Vocational Certificate, Lower Division Baccalaureate/Associate Degree, Upper Division Baccalaureate and Graduate University, Community College and Technical School academic credit; and

WHEREAS, There are many occupations in the civilian workforce that require a civilian college/university degree, or vocational certificate; and

WHEREAS, In the Armed Forces, these unique occupations are performed to approved military standards that may meet or exceed the civilian college/university or vocational academic coursework criteria; and

WHEREAS, Upon separation from military service, many former military personnel, certified as proficient in their military occupational career, have recommended college/university and vocational academic credit based on the ACE Military Evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, Since 1945, ACE has evaluated military training and experience to gauge eligibility for university, college and vocational credit recommendations; and

WHEREAS, In 1974, ACE Military Programs began the assessment of military occupational specialties; and

WHEREAS, More than 2,200 higher education institutions consider the ACE Military Programs course credit recommendations and these credit recommendations can also assist in the servicemember's career advancement; and

WHEREAS, In March, 2013, the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard combined their individual transcript systems into one system called the Joint Services Transcript System; and

WHEREAS, DOD and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) require colleges, universities, vocational and technical schools, both public and private, to evaluate prior learning and previous academic transcripts and credit, prior to a veteran, active-duty, Reserve or National Guard to be in receipt of funds for training or education at civilian institutions of higher learning to include colleges, universities and vocational technical schools; and

WHEREAS, DOD has already paid for the training of its personnel for their military occupations and the taxpayers of the United States should not be burdened by paying for the training again in the form of the GI Bill or any federally-funded training program; and

WHEREAS, DOD Tuition Assistance, VA Education or any form of the GI Bill requires this evaluation, and a fully completed degree or certificate plan to ensure compliance with DOD and VA regulations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That The American Legion support efforts of academic credit evaluation by colleges, universities and vocational technical schools via the Joint Services Transcript system for military experience as evaluated college, university and vocational technical school credit; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support efforts to increase the understanding that without this required evaluation of Joint Services Transcripts that the Department of Veterans Affairs education funding through the GI Bill oftentimes duplicates funding for military training already received by the Department of Defense (DOD); and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That DOD and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) change the current required degree plan used by colleges, universities and vocational technical institutions of higher learning to be in receipt of DOD Tuition Assistance or VA GI Bill funds be required to evaluate and report the Joint Services Transcript of veterans, active-duty military, Reserve and National Guard just as they would for any other transcript from an institution of prior learning.